

Art Unit: 1656

[5] An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Melodie W. Henderson on 7/18/08.

[6] The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 9. *line 3* Insert "of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, or SEQ ID NO:6, respectively" after "Arg 81".
1 *line 3*

Claim 11. *line 3* Replace the phrase: "A composition, comprising a protein crystal of SEQ ID NO:17, wherein the crystal has space group P2₁" with "A composition comprising a crystal of a protein consisting of SEQ ID NO:17, wherein the crystal has space group P2₁".
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Claim 21. Insert "of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, or SEQ ID NO:6, respectively" after "Asp 73 or Arg 81".

Claim 22. *line 3* Insert "of SEQ ID NO:5" after "255-258".
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Reasons for Allowance

[7] The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. Initially, it is noted that all references to pages of the specification refer to the substitute specification filed on 12/14/05. Also, it is noted that the specification's amino acid numbering is relative to the full-length HCV NS3 helicase of SEQ ID NO:1.

According to the specification, the polypeptides having the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:3, 5, 6, and 17 are modified fragments of HCV NS3 helicase, wherein the fragments are disclosed as being advantageously soluble such that they are useful for